

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**Caption in Compliance with D.N.J. LBR 9004-1(b)**

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In re:

BED BATH & BEYOND INC., *et al.*,<sup>1</sup>

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 23-13359 (VFP)

(Jointly Administered)



Order Filed on September 4, 2024  
by Clerk  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court  
District of New Jersey

**POST-EFFECTIVE DATE PROTECTIVE ORDER**

The relief set forth on the following pages, numbered two (2) through fifteen (15), is hereby ORDERED

**DATED: September 4, 2024**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Vincent F. Papalia  
United States Bankruptcy Judge

<sup>1</sup> The last four digits of Debtor Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.'s tax identification number are 0488. A complete list of the Debtors in these chapter 11 cases and each such Debtor's tax identification number may be obtained on the website of the Debtors' claims and noticing agent at <https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/bbby>.

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2023 (the “Petition Date”), each Debtor commenced a voluntary case (the “Bankruptcy”) under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (as amended, the “Bankruptcy Code”) in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (the “Bankruptcy Court” or “Court”);

WHEREAS, the Plan Administrator has sought information from a certain third-party subpoena recipient (the “Subpoena Recipient”) and may serve additional discovery requests seeking information from the Subpoena Recipient and other parties in these chapter 11 cases and related adversary proceedings (all documents and information provided pursuant to such requests are collectively referred to as the “Discovery Material” or “Discovery Materials”);

WHEREAS, the Plan Administrator and the Subpoena Recipient have agreed that the Discovery Materials shall be subject to a protective order, pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 7026 and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 to protect privilege and the confidentiality of sensitive information; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Administrator and the Subpoena Recipient have agreed to be bound by the terms of this Protective Order, subject to approval by the Court.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Designation of Documents. Any party producing Discovery Material (the “Producing Party”) in response to formal or informal discovery requests promulgated by the Plan Administrator (the “Receiving Party”) may designate Discovery Material as “Confidential Material” or “Highly Confidential Material” (any such Discovery Material, “Designated Material”) in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) Confidential Material: A Producing Party may designate Discovery Material as “Confidential” if such Producing Party believes in good faith that such

Discovery Material constitutes or includes information that: (i) constitutes or contains technical, business, financial, personal, or other information of a nature that can be protected under Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 7026 or 9018; (ii) is subject by law, by contract, or Court order to a legally protected right of privacy; or (iii) the Producing Party is under a preexisting obligation to a third-party to treat as confidential.

(b) Highly Confidential Material: A Producing Party may designate Discovery Material as “Highly Confidential” if such Producing Party believes in good faith that such Discovery Material is of such a confidential nature that a risk of competitive injury may be created if it were disclosed to persons other than those identified in Paragraph 2 of this Protective Order, such as trade secrets or sensitive personal, financial, or business information.

(c) Exclusions: Confidential Material and Highly Confidential Material does not include information which: (a) is or becomes generally available to the public other than as a result of a disclosure by the Receiving Party in violation of this Stipulation or another improper disclosure by any person; (b) was available to the Receiving Party on a non-confidential basis prior to its disclosure by the Producing Party; (c) becomes available to the Receiving Party on a non-confidential basis from a person other than the Producing Party who is not otherwise bound by a confidentiality agreement prohibiting disclosure of such information; (d) has been independently developed by the Receiving Party without reference to any Confidential or Highly Confidential Material; or (e) the Producing Party has previously authorized the Receiving Party in writing to divulge or communicate to third parties.

A Producing Party shall designate Discovery Materials as Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material by applying the legend “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” to each page containing any Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material. In the case of electronically stored information, the “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” legend, if any, shall be printed on the cover or container of the disk, tape, or other medium in which the electronic form data is stored, and the “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” legend shall be applied, by electronic means to each electronic document or other electronically stored information containing any Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Materials. The failure to designate Discovery Material as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” does not constitute a waiver of such claim, and a Producing Party may so designate Discovery Material after such Discovery Material has been produced in accordance with Paragraph 9, with the effect that such Discovery Material is subject thereafter to the protections of this Stipulation.

2. Treatment of Confidential and Highly Confidential Discovery Material. Any Discovery Material designated as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” shall be maintained in confidence by any Receiving Party and shall be stored under the direct control of counsel of record who shall be responsible for preventing any disclosure not in accordance with this Stipulation.

(a) Disclosing Highly Confidential Material. Highly Confidential Material shall only be disclosed to outside counsel and in-house counsel to a Receiving Party, and legal assistants, secretaries, staff, or agents, and outside consultants, financial advisors, or experts to such Receiving Party. The Plan Administrator, Members of the Oversight Committee, outside consultants, financial advisors, or experts to Parties may only receive Highly Confidential Discovery Material after executing a Non-Disclosure Declaration in

the form annexed as an Exhibit A hereto. Counsel for the Plan Administrator may also provide their client, members of the Oversight Committee, outside consultants, financial advisors, or experts to such Party with high level summaries of Highly Confidential Discovery Material provided that such persons agree in writing (in a Non-Disclosure Declaration) that no such information will be made public in any form.

(b) Disclosing Confidential Material. In addition to the persons identified in the above section 2(a), Confidential Material shall only be disclosed to:

- (i) employees of Sixth Street Partners;
- (ii) Any current employee, officer, director, or other manager or member of the Debtors and/or any affiliate of the Debtors;
- (iii) Court officials involved in these chapter 11 cases;
- (iv) Court-reporting personnel involved in taking or transcribing testimony in these chapter 11 cases;
- (v) Authors and addressees of the designated Discovery Material;
- (vi) Any other person designated by order of the Court; and
- (vii) Any mediator engaged by the Parties or appointed by the Court.

3. Public Disclosure, Including, But Not Limited to Disclosure Made in Support or Opposition the Chapter 11 Plan and Associated Releases. Any public filing or communication that seeks to quote or otherwise include Confidential or Highly Confidential Material, shall be filed under seal with the Bankruptcy Court in accordance with the procedures provided in Paragraph 7 below.

4. Permitted Purposes. All Discovery Materials disclosed pursuant to this Stipulation, whether or not containing Confidential or Highly Confidential Materials, shall be used solely in connection with these chapter 11 cases (including any adversary proceeding or contested matter in these chapter 11 cases) and not for any other legal, business, commercial,

competitive, personal, or other purpose. Any summary, compilation, notes, memoranda, analysis, copy, electronic image, or database containing Confidential or Highly Confidential Material, and any electronic image or database containing Confidential or Highly Confidential Material shall be subject to the terms of this Stipulation to the same extent as the Discovery Material from which such summary, compilation, notes, copy, memoranda, analysis, electronic image, or database is derived. No Confidential or Highly Confidential Material shall be used for any other purpose, including business, governmental, commercial, administrative, or other judicial proceedings. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in the Stipulation shall prevent a Receiving Party from using or disclosing its own Discovery Materials in any way or from using in any way any Discovery Materials to the extent such Discovery Materials (i) were already in the Receiving Party's possession when the same Discovery Materials are received from a Producing Party and are not subject to any other obligation of confidentiality to any other person; (ii) are received or become available to a Receiving Party on a non-confidential basis that does not violate this Stipulation or any other obligation of confidentiality to any other person; (iii) were independently developed by such Receiving Party without reference to any Confidential or Highly Confidential Material; or (iv) are published or become publicly available in a manner that is not in violation of this Stipulation or of any obligation of confidentiality to any other person.

5. Third Party Disclosures. The production of any Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material by any non-party in these chapter 11 cases shall be subject to and governed by the terms of this Protective Order.

6. Preservation of Privileges and Clawbacks. This Protective Order is entered pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d). In accordance therewith, all privileges, protections, confidentiality, and immunities (including, without limitation, the attorney-client privilege and

the attorney work product doctrine) shall remain in effect as to any privileged Discovery Material shared, and shall not be waived or in any way impaired in connection with these chapter 11 cases, including in connection with any or current or subsequent adversary proceeding or contested matter in these chapter 11 cases or in any other Federal, State or other proceeding outside these cases, by production, or by disclosing such Discovery Material to the Court in the context of resolving a request or dispute as to sealing.

(a) Any Receiving Party that determines it may have inadvertently received protected information shall promptly notify the Producing Party. If a Producing Party that produces or otherwise discloses information thereafter claims that such information is protected by any privilege or attorney work product protection (“Disclosed Protected Information”), such disclosure shall not constitute or be deemed a waiver or forfeiture of any claim of privilege or work product protection that the Producing Party would otherwise be entitled to assert with respect to the Disclosed Protected Information and its subject matter in this proceeding or in any other federal or state proceeding. The parties stipulate by entering this Protective Order that the Court shall provide the maximum protection allowed by Rule 502(d).

(b) Any Producing Party may request, in writing, the return of any Disclosed Protected Information by identifying it and stating the basis for withholding such material or information from production.

(c) If a Producing Party requests the return of such Disclosed Protected Information then in the custody of one or more parties Receiving Parties, the Receiving Parties shall immediately stop any review of the document, and—unless it contests the claim of attorney-client privilege or work product protection—within five (5) business

days of receipt of written notice (i) destroy or return to the Producing Party the Disclosed Protected Information and all copies thereof, and (ii) provide a certification of counsel that all of the Disclosed Protected Information has been returned or destroyed.

(d) If a Receiving Party wishes to challenge the claim of privilege or work product protection, it must sequester the material until the issue can be resolved and may not review it for any reason. The parties agree to meet and confer regarding the challenge, and if, at the conclusion of that process, the parties are still not in agreement, they may bring the issue to the Court for resolution.

7. Sealing of Designated Material Filed With or Submitted to the Court. For the avoidance of doubt, no papers containing Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material shall be disseminated to creditors or other stakeholders generally without the Producing Party's express written consent or an order of the Court permitting such dissemination. For the further avoidance of doubt, no Receiving Party shall attempt to file any Discovery Material that contains privileged information with the Court under any circumstances. Otherwise, pleadings, documents, or other papers (or attachments thereto) containing Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material that a Receiving Party seeks to file with the Court shall be handled in the following manner:

(a) The pleadings, documents, or other papers (or attachments thereto) containing Designated Materials should be redacted to remove all portions containing Designated Material, and the Receiving Party seeking to file or communicate these materials to creditors (the "Filing Party") shall file the pleadings, documents, or other papers (or attachments thereto) with the aforementioned redactions on the Court's electronic docket;



(b) The Filing Party shall, contemporaneously with the aforementioned redacted filing, file (i) a motion to seal (a “Motion to Seal”) under section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 9018, and Rule 9018-1 of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (the “Local Rules”); and (ii) unredacted copies of the pleadings, documents, or other papers under seal, also pursuant to section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 9018, and Local Rule 9018-1 ; and

(c) The Filing Party shall serve the Debtors and the U.S. Trustee with unredacted copies of any sealed filing.

(d) Each Filing Party shall use best efforts when filing with the Court pleadings, documents, or other papers (or attachments thereto) to remove Designated Material from pleadings, documents, or other papers (or attachments thereto). If a Filing Party believes in good faith that a pleading relies on Designated Material to such a degree that it is impractical for the Filing Party to conclusively determine all aspects of the pleading that could disclose Designated Material, the Filing Party may file the entire pleading under seal, and serve the Producing Parties with proposed redactions. In such event, the Producing Parties shall propose any additional requested redactions within five (5) business days (or indicate which proposed redactions are not required), at which point a redacted pleading shall be filed.

(e) The Court shall decide whether sealing is appropriate pursuant to section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9018. Until the Court decides the Motion to Seal, the pleading, document, or other paper (or attachments thereto) shall remain under seal.

8. Compelled Disclosure. Notwithstanding the foregoing, solely in the event that a Receiving Party is requested or required (through discovery, subpoena, civil investigative demand, or other similar legal or investigative process) to disclose any of the Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material, to the extent permitted by law the Receiving Party shall provide the Producing Party with prompt written notice of any such request or requirement so that the Producing Party may seek a protective order or other appropriate remedy and/or waive compliance with the provisions of this Stipulation in respect of such request or requirement. If, in the absence of a protective order or other remedy or the receipt of a waiver by the Producing Party, a Receiving Party is nonetheless, in the opinion of its counsel, legally compelled to disclose such Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material or else stand liable for contempt or suffer other censure or significant penalty, the Receiving Party may, without liability under this Stipulation, disclose only that portion of the Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material which its counsel advises it is legally required to be disclosed, provided that the Receiving Party exercises its commercially reasonable efforts to preserve the confidentiality of the Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material, including, without limitation, by taking commercially reasonable measures to cooperate with the Producing Party to obtain an appropriate protective order or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded the Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material by the party to whom such material will be produced, and then only with as much prior written notice to the Producing Party as is practical under the circumstances. In no event will a Receiving Party oppose action by a Producing Party to obtain a protective order or other relief to prevent the disclosure of the Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material or to obtain reliable assurance that

confidential treatment will be afforded the Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material.

9. No Waiver. Neither this Stipulation nor disclosure of any Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material by a Producing Party shall be deemed by implication or otherwise to vest in the Receiving Party rights in or to such Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material other than the right to use such Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material solely in accordance with this Stipulation. It is understood and agreed by the Receiving Parties that no failure or delay by a Producing Party in exercising any right, power, or privilege pursuant to this Stipulation shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall any single or partial exercise thereof preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any right, power or privilege pursuant to this Stipulation. If at any time a Producing Party determines or realizes that certain testimony or some portion(s) of Discovery Materials that it previously produced should be designated as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential,” the Producing Party may apprise the Parties in writing, and such designated testimony or portion(s) of Discovery Materials will thereafter be treated as Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Materials under the terms of this Stipulation and Protective Order, provided, however, that the Producing Party shall, at its cost, provide the Receiving Party with substitute copies, bearing the legend “Confidential” or the legend “Highly Confidential,” of any such Discovery Materials at which time the Receiving Party shall promptly return to the Producing Party the copies of such substituted Discovery Materials. Entry into this Stipulation and/or producing Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material pursuant hereto shall not prejudice in any way a Producing Party’s rights to object to the authenticity or admissibility into evidence of any testimony or other evidence subject hereto.

10. Objections to Designation. By agreeing to this Protective Order, the Receiving Parties do not concede that any material designated as Confidential Information does in fact contain or reflect information that may be protected under the Applicable Rules and Law or that has been properly designated as Confidential Information. Any Receiving Party may move at any time for relief from the provisions of this Protective Order with respect to confidentiality designations as set forth herein. In the event a Receiving Party objects to any designation of testimony or Discovery Materials as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” or wants to show Highly Confidential documents to its clients or other persons other than counsel, retained professionals, or retained experts, the Receiving Party shall so inform the Producing Party, stating the grounds of the objection. The Parties shall have five business (5) days to meet and confer and resolve any objection involving less than 20 documents, at the end of which the Producing Party may seek a ruling from the Court, on no less than ten (10) business days’ notice to the Receiving Party, provided that no Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material shall be filed in the public record or otherwise disclosed prior to a determination by the Court that it does not meet the requirements for sealing under section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9018. If a Receiving Party challenges the designation of more than 20 documents, the Receiving Party and Producing Party shall work in good faith to establish a reasonable schedule for addressing challenges to confidentiality designations. For the avoidance of doubt, a Receiving Party may object to the designation at any time and is not required to do so within any specific time period.

11. Use in Depositions. If Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Materials are utilized in a deposition, then it shall be indicated on the record by counsel for one of the parties, third parties or witnesses (or, if counsel for the Producing Party is present, by counsel for

the Producing Party) that a question, or a line of questioning concerning a particular subject matter, calls for Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material, in which case the transcript of the designated testimony (if any) shall be bound in a separate volume and marked “Confidential Discovery Material Governed by Protective Order” or “Highly Confidential Discovery Material Governed by Protective Order” by the reporter. Any Producing Party may also designate the actual transcript of a deposition or any portion thereof as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” by stating as such on the record of such deposition. All depositions shall be treated as “Highly Confidential” under this Stipulation and Protective Order until five business days after a transcript is made available by the Court Reporter to the person defending the deposition and all Producing Parties to the extent any of their Discovery Materials was disclosed or discussed during the deposition, and during that five-day period the person defending the deposition and the Producing Parties should advise the Parties and the Court Reporter of what additional portions of the deposition, if any, should receive a “Highly Confidential” or a “Confidential” designation.

12. Use In Open Court. As part of any pretrial conference or any meet and confer regarding the use of exhibits in any evidentiary hearing, and at least 24 hours (or if not practicable, as soon as practicable) prior to the use of any Designated Material at trial or any hearing to be held in open court, counsel for any party who desires to offer or use Designated Material it received from a Producing Party shall meet and confer in good faith with the Producing Party together with any other person who have expressed interest in participating in such trial or hearing to discuss ways to redact the Designated Material so that the material may be offered or otherwise used by any party, in accordance with the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules. If the parties are unable to resolve a dispute related to such

Designated Material, the parties will jointly contact the Court regarding a conference prior to the start of trial or hearing to address confidentiality issues, and the Producing Party will bear the burden of demonstrating why such Designated Material should remain confidential at such trial or hearing. No Designated Material marked Confidential or Highly Confidential may be used in open court without the Producing Party's consent prior to the Court having made such a determination.

13. Use by Any Professional Firm or Individual Retained in Connection With These Chapter 11 Cases. Counsel for the party retaining any professional firm or individual in connection with these chapter 11 cases, including outside consultants, financial advisors or experts (collectively, the "Permitted Recipients," and each a "Permitted Recipient") shall provide a copy of this Stipulation to the Permitted Recipient or a representative of the Permitted Recipient, and the Permitted Recipient or a representative of the Permitted Recipient must execute a Non-Disclosure Declaration in the form annexed as an Exhibit A hereto prior to the Permitted Recipient receiving any Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material.

14. Enforcement Pending Entry. All Producing and Receiving Parties agree to be bound by the terms of this Stipulation pending the entry of this Stipulation as an order of the Court, and any violation of its terms shall be subject to the same sanctions and penalties as if this Stipulation has been entered by the Court. The provisions of this Stipulation shall, absent written permission of the Producing Party or further order of the Court, continue to be binding throughout and after the conclusion of these chapter 11 cases.

15. Disposition of Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material. Within sixty (60) days after receiving notice of the entry of an order, judgment, or decree finally disposing of or resolving any and all disputes among the parties arising out of or relating to these

chapter 11 cases and/or adversary proceedings, including the exhaustion of all possible appeals and other review, all persons having received Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material shall either return such material and all copies thereof (including summaries and excerpts) to the Producing Parties or destroy all such Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material and certify that fact to the Producing Parties. Discovery Material that has been received electronically and that cannot be returned or destroyed must be electronically deleted and deleted from “trash” files. To the extent any Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material exist in whole or in part on computer backup tapes or otherwise not readily accessible media used for disaster recovery purposes, information from such media does not need to be restored for purposes of destroying or returning the Discovery Materials to the Producing Party, but such retained information shall continue to be treated in accordance with this Stipulation. This paragraph 15 applies to Confidential and Highly Confidential Discovery Material only and does not require that counsel for the Parties destroy work product or correspondence.

16. Any Party or non-party may seek relief from, or modification of, this Stipulation or any provision thereof by properly noticed motion to the Court.

17. This Stipulation may be signed in counterparts, which, when fully executed, shall constitute a single original and electronic signatures shall be deemed original signatures.

**Exhibit A**

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

In re:

BED BATH & BEYOND INC., *et al.*,<sup>1</sup>

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 23-13359 (VFP)

(Jointly Administered)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, state that:

1. My address is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. My present occupation or job description is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I have received a copy of the Protective Order (the “Stipulation”) entered in the above-entitled action on \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I have carefully read and understand the provisions of the Stipulation.
5. I will comply with all provisions of the Stipulation.
6. I will hold in confidence, will not disclose to anyone not qualified under the Stipulation, and will use only for purposes of this action, any Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material that is disclosed to me.
7. I will return or destroy all Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material that comes into my possession, and documents or things that I have prepared relating thereto, to counsel for the party by whom I am employed or retained, or to counsel from whom I received the Confidential or Highly Confidential Discovery Material.

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<sup>1</sup> The last four digits of Debtor Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.’s tax identification number are 0488. A complete list of the Debtors in these chapter 11 cases and each such Debtor’s tax identification number may be obtained on the website of the Debtors’ claims and noticing agent at <https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/bbby>.



8. I hereby submit to the jurisdiction of this court for the purpose of enforcement of the Stipulation in this action.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_